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Letter dated 10 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward a letter dated 7 November 2008 from Isaias Afwerki, President of the State of Eritrea, addressed to you, concerning peace and security in Eritrea-Ethiopia and Djibouti-Eritrea (see annex). In this connection, I wish to draw your attention to the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission Order of 17 July 2002 (see S/2002/853, enclosure). As noted in the annex to the present letter, the Order of the Boundary Commission was endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1430 (2002).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Araya **Desta**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 10 November 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Government of Eritrea has learned that the Security Council is mulling over the options of issuing a presidential statement or resolution against Eritrea in support of and to condone the unfounded accusations levelled by Djibouti.

The irony of this drama cannot be overemphasized. As may be recalled, the Security Council passed resolution 1430 (2002) in August 2002, in which it requested Ethiopia to dismantle, within 30 days, its illegal settlements in and occupation of, the sovereign Eritrean territory of Dembe Mengul in western Eritrea. Ethiopia ignored the resolution and the Security Council failed to take any remedial action.

Ethiopia continues to occupy the town of Badme and other Eritrean territories in violation of fundamental tenets of international law. Ethiopia's acts, which have been tolerated for the past six years by the Security Council, constitute a flagrant breach of the Algiers Peace Agreement and of Articles 2.4 and 33 of the Charter of the United Nations on the non-use of force against the territorial integrity of a Member State and the commitment of Member States to the pacific settlement of disputes.

In April 2008, Ethiopia went a step further to occupy and deploy offensive weapons on the Eritrean part of Mount Musa Ali on the Ethiopia-Djibouti and Eritrea junction.

In view of these facts, why is the Security Council bracing today to take punitive action against Eritrea on, at best, a putative and, at worst, a manufactured border dispute when it has kept mum for all these years on Ethiopia's repetitive and grave violations of international law that are fraught with plunging the region into another cycle of violent confrontation?

Eritrea is not, of course, in a position to explain this overly lopsided stance. Eritrea can only emphasize that double-standards will further erode the moral authority of the Security Council and contribute to greater regional destabilization.

(*Signed*) Isaias **Afwerki**